

CHAPTER NO. 1077

HOUSE BILL NO. 3083

By Representatives Bird, Armstrong, Newton, Kent

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 3275

By Senator Miller

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-3-502, relative to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-3-502(c), is amended by designating the current language as subdivision "(c)(1)" and by inserting the following new language, to be designated as subdivision "(c)(2)":

(2) Whenever Sudden Infant Death Syndrome is suspected, prior to signing medical certification of the cause of death, such physician or chief medical officer shall examine, or cause to be examined, x-ray images of the infant's remains and shall take other appropriate actions in order to eliminate other possible causes of death.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-3-502(c), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision thereto:

() (A) In addition to the provisions of this section, prior to signing medical certification of the cause of death, the physician, chief medical officer or medical examiner shall require screening x-rays of the skull, long bones and chest of any child who was not subject to an autopsy and who died of unknown causes or whose death is suspected to be from sudden infant death syndrome.

(B) The physician, chief medical officer or medical examiner who orders such x-ray examinations pursuant to this section shall be entitled to a reasonable fee as set by the commissioner of health for the costs of the x-ray examinations, to be paid from the funds allotted to the postmortem examiners program in the Department of Health.


SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 1, 1998


JIMMY RAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES


JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 19th day of May 1998


DON SNOGRASS, GOVERNOR